

means for preferentially breaking said valve body along a predetermined location in response to applied force, such that said valve body lumen splits open upon breaking;

means for coupling said valve body to said peel-away sheath for coupling said peel-away sheath lumen to said valve body lumen;

means for receiving a compressible valve sleeve including a cavity defined therein; a compressible valve sleeve having a lumen therethrough disposed at least in part within said cavity; and

means for compressing said valve sleeve for restricting any fluid flow from said peel-away sheath lumen through valve and valve sleeve lumen.

3. (Twice Amended) A breakaway valve for a tubular peel-away sheath, said sheath having an external surface, a lumen, and a proximal end comprising:

means for reversibly restricting fluid flow from said sheath lumen coupled to said sheath proximal end, wherein said means for reversibly restricting fluid flow include a valve sleeve having a lumen therethrough and means for compressing said valve sleeve;

means for breaking apart said fluid flow restricting means responsive to applied force; and

means for admitting a catheter distal end into said valve and selectively through said lumen of said valve sleeve.